

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-131 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Johnson
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military
Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related
Agencies
SD-125
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chet Edwards
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military
Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related
Agencies
H-143 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Conferees:

For the past two fiscal years, Congress has banned the Army from spending any funds for expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) in Southern Colorado. We write to urge you to support and maintain this funding moratorium for a third year in the final FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs conference report. Maintaining this moratorium is important to us and to the residents of southern Colorado.

In the three years since the Army first proposed expansion of the PCMS, there has been continual concern about whether or not there is a need for more land beyond the 244,000 acres the Army already has. Therefore this moratorium, which the Subcommittee has supported before, must continue to remain in place.

The farmers and ranchers of southern Colorado are entitled to assurance that their way of life will not be unnecessarily or unjustly put at risk. Congress can provide that assurance by including the following language, which is in the House-passed bill, in the final FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs appropriations bill:

"None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used for any action that is related to or promotes the expansion of the boundaries or size of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado."

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to our men and women in uniform.

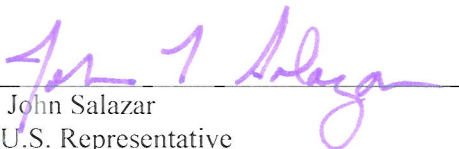
Sincerely,

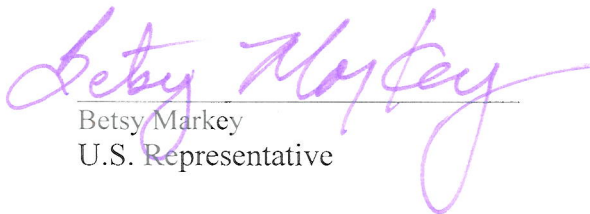


Mark Udall
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator


John Salazar
U.S. Representative


Betsy Markey
U.S. Representative